

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING THE LIFE OF JEF "RUSTY" RUSSELL III

HON. BRIAN BABIN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 6, 2017

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life of Jef Chaison Russell III or "Rusty" as I knew him, who went to be with the Lord on December 31, 2016.

Rusty was a former Beaumont Convention and Visitors Bureau director who devoted himself to promoting tourism in the Beaumont region. He was known in many different convention and tourism circles having served as director of the Bureaus of Beaumont, Texas, Forth Worth, Texas and Eureka Springs, Arkansas. Rusty loved people and in turn people loved him.

Rusty and I have been friends since 1953 during our kindergarten days at Longfellow Elementary School in Texas. There was no finer man than Rusty. Among the many memories we share together there is one I will cherish forever; two years ago, he traveled to D.C. to take part in my being sworn into the 114th Congress. I am saddened by his passing, but I am so thankful for the years of friendship I had with my dear friend. We do not know the day, hour or minute that the good Lord will call us home; Rusty knew this and spent his days serving others and touching every life he could.

I will cherish the memories of our friendship. Rusty's family will continue to be in our prayers.

HONORING STEVE PENLEY

HON. TOM GRAVES

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 6, 2017

Mr. GRAVES of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, in 1964 Steve Penley was born into a family of musicians in Chattanooga, Tennessee. The family soon moved to Athens, Georgia and then Macon, Georgia where Penley attended First Presbyterian Day School. Following high school, he studied at The School of Visual Arts in New York and at The University of Georgia.

After college, Penley was working odd jobs while painting when his talent was recognized by an attorney and art enthusiast, Robert Steed. Penley quickly gained recognition for his bold brush strokes, vivid colors and historical icon paintings.

Penley is now one of America's most celebrated artists with works exhibited across the globe. He has created multiple projects for Fox News, major companies such as Coca-Cola, AirTran/Southwest, Kaiser Permanente, as well as several U.S. Presidents and foreign heads of state. His work can even be found in the U.S. Capitol, where it's displayed on loan for visitors from across the country to enjoy.

Penley's paintings represent the very best of America and serve as a reminder of the leaders and institutions that make our country great.

In addition to his paintings, Penley has authored and illustrated several books, including books written by legendary University of Georgia football Coach Vince Dooley. He has also donated countless paintings to charities and organizations in his community and state, as well as across the nation. He is particularly honored to be involved with numerous organizations that benefit our active-duty servicemembers and our veterans.

Despite all of his professional accomplishments, Penley is proudest of his role as a father of three very talented artists and musicians: Lyall, Abbey and Parker.

Steve Penley is a legendary artist and a great American.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BETO O'ROURKE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 6, 2017

Mr. O'ROURKE. Mr. Speaker, during the roll call votes on Thursday, January 5, 2017, I missed a vote on an amendment to the Regulations from the Executive in Need of Scrutiny Act.

Had I been present, on roll call number 13, I would have voted "Aye."

TRIBUTE TO JOE GALLEGOS

HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 6, 2017

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Joe Gallegos, who served the County of Costilla, Colorado as a Commissioner for over ten years. Joe passed away on December 11, 2016, and will be greatly missed in the San Luis Valley.

Joe was a fifth generation farmer in San Luis, and his love for the land in the surrounding area inspired him to volunteer with non-profit community organizations to preserve water quality and find solutions to zoning issues. He was instrumental in the restoration of the old Costilla County Courthouse and the implementation of the Costilla County biodiesel pilot project.

Joe's fellow county commissioner, Lawrence Pacheco, said that Joe was the only true cowboy he knew, and at his last conference of commissioners, he remained focused on his mission to promote sustainability, protect watersheds, and make sure the most vulnerable people in the community had a voice and seat at the table.

The magnitude of Joe's impact on the San Luis Valley is immense and it is a privilege to

recognize his legacy of public service and hard work.

HONORING THE LIFE OF JESSE WILLIAM "J.W." RAY

HON. BRIAN BABIN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 6, 2017

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Jesse William "J.W." Ray, who died on January 2, 2017.

J.W. lived an impressive life. He served as a Seabee 24th NCB in the United States Navy in the Pacific Theatre during World War II and was among the soldiers who fought in the Philippines and Okinawa before being honorably discharged on April 20, 1946.

After leaving the U.S. Navy, J.W. married and was blessed with four children. He spent thirteen years working with Texaco refinery as a pipefitter and two years working for the Southern Pacific Railroad. As a family man, J.W. decided to leave the railroad because it took him away from his loved ones for days at a time. He entered the insurance industry and founded his own insurance company in Woodville, Texas, which he ran for forty years.

When his first wife Cecil passed away in 2004, J.W. began Cecil's Pantry at the United Methodist Church in Warren, Texas. It still continues to help others today.

J.W. Ray was a kind man and I feel honored and privileged to have known him. He will be missed, and his family will continue to be in our prayers.

HONORING COMMUNITY CHAMPIONS MARTIN AND MARTHA JOHNSON

HON. MIKE KELLY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 6, 2017

Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize two of my constituents from Western Pennsylvania, Martin and Martha Johnson. The Johnson's are the founders and directors of Downtown Ministries INC. as well as several other groups serving under its umbrella including Fresh Grounds Coffeehouse, Sans MOCO Gallery, His Work—His Way, Keystone Bibles and Community Health Ministry.

Created in 1994, Downtown Ministries is a charitable organization that serves as an avenue for Christians to connect, socialize and minister. Downtown Ministries strives to provide opportunity and vision to meet the physical and spiritual needs of our community.

In April 2010, Downtown Ministries established the Fresh Grounds Coffeehouse to connect with even more people in our community and positively impact our community. Fresh

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.